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Northern Region News



Issue #10

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

October 22, 1990

Bitterroot and Beaverhead National Forests

Pulaskis and McCloeds Help International Relations

by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Specialist, Bitterroot NF, and Dennis Gordon, Resource Assistant, Beaverhead NF

The Bitterroot and Beaverhead National Forests had a rare opportunity in August to host the "International Continental Divide Trail Crew." This group helped build a six-mile section of trail between Schultz Saddle and Gibbons Pass on the 3,100 mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

This cooperative work project, arranged by the Forest Service through the Council on International Educational Exchange, included 11 young adults from various backgrounds and countries—the U.S., France, Germany, Belgium, England and Wales. The Council, a non-profit membership organization, was founded in 1947 after World War II. Its goal is to promote the exchange of youth work projects as a valuable tool in promoting international peace and understanding. Workcamps sponsored by the Council allow volunteers from all over the world to work on projects in local communities while living together, sharing meals, and taking part in decision-making and recreational activities.

The idea of hosting an international work crew was initiated in October of 1989 by Shirley Marsh, volunteer coordinator for the Bitterroot National Forest, who proposed the idea to the Bitterroot's Sula, and Beaverhead's Wisdom Districts. In February, the Districts were informed they had been selected to participate in Montana's first workcamp project.

In early August, the volunteers finally arrived in Missoula—for many their first experience in the United States. As they traveled from Missoula through Hamilton, Darby and finally Sula, their eyes kept getting bigger! They got quieter with disbelief at their first encounter with the "wide open spaces" of western Montana. The crew was to be

"housed" in a tent camp at the historic Hogan's Cabin on Wisdom District, and meals would be provided by the Trapper Creek Job Corps from the Bitterroot's Darby District.

At Sula, they were welcomed by personnel from the Sula District and the local community. The Sula Women's Club and Sula District jointly hosted a welcoming potluck attended by over 200 people. Then it was off to their new "home" at Hogan's Cabin.

Although the crew knew what the project was, they had no idea how they were going to accomplish it. First they were introduced to the pulaski and McCloed; they learned quickly how to use them and started building trail.

As part of the cultural exchange, there were evening and weekend activities

available to them, from hot springs to local "watering" holes. Park Ranger Kevin Peters, from the Big Hole Battlefield Monument, demonstrated how to put up a teepee during an evening activity. The students also visited Yellowstone National Park, Virginia City, and the Deer Lodge County Fair and rodeo, followed by shopping in Missoula.

In exchange for their many long, hard hours of labor, the participants gained an inter-cultural learning experience and the satisfaction of completing the job. The crew's dream is to return to Montana with their families and hike the six miles of the Continental Divide Trail they built.

The Sula and Wisdom Ranger Districts hosted a farewell party for the volunteers, catered by Trapper Creek Job Corps. Even though "good-byes" were said, everyone knew that the new-found friendships would last forever.



The International Trail Crew got a lesson in putting up a teepee from Kevin Peters, Park Ranger of the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument. Photo by Shirley Marsh.



Idaho Governor Rides Forest Service Trails

Somehow a campfire and an outdoor setting inspires clearer thinking and more thoughtful conversation. It was so during a trail ride into the Nez Perce National Forest's Meadow Creek drainage in early August. Governor Cecil B. Andrus joined all of Idaho's Forest Supervisors and Deputy Regional Foresters John Hughes (R-1) and Bob Joslin (R-4) for a 35-mile ride into Idaho's backcountry.

Meadow Creek is a main tributary of the Wild and Scenic Selway River. The Meadow Creek drainage is roadless and adjoins both the Frank Church-River of No Return and the Selway-Bitterroot Wildernesses. The area was selected for the tour because of the variety of publics concerned about its future uses, and because it is a microcosm of nearly all the



Idaho Governor Cecil B. Andrus, riding with Idaho National Forest Supervisors. Photo by John Hughes.

public issues that the Forest Service deals with everyday.

Work as well as touring was on the agenda. The group (Governor included) cleaned up an outfitter camp on the way. But the primary purpose was to provide an opportunity for the Idaho Forest Supervisors and Governor Andrus to talk frankly about issues that affect Idaho and the National Forests.

The riders started at Green Mountain Lookout on the Red River District and ended at Box Singh Trailhead on Elk City District, enduring three days and two nights on the trail. Overnights were spent at a camp near Meadow Creek and at Selway District's Meadow Creek Guard Station. Gear was packed by the Regional Pack Train, and local outfitters provided their services for the group. While the accommodations were said to be great, there were many limping riders at the end of this hot, dusty trip. Nevertheless, smiles were worn by all.

This was the second annual Idaho Forest Supervisor's ride. It was hosted by the Nez Perce National Forest. Next year's trip will be hosted by the Targhee National Forest.

Nez Perce National Forest

Selway River Wave Rider

by Shelley Dumas, Moose Creek Ranger District

The Selway River runs two ways — downhill (naturally) and uphill (managerially)! That is neither a contradiction nor a problem, as both directions are the reality of a "wild" and celebrated river which challenges the forces of nature, and the forces of recreational/environmental/political demands of management. From its burbling beginnings in the high mountains of the Idaho-Montana Divide, the Selway River slices through the Moose Creek District as it engineers its way toward a rendezvous with the Lochsa River. It careens through tight canyons, smashes against boulders, gurgles through the shallows, and spreads itself lazily over wider stretches. The Selway can be chilling and thrilling, but woe to the complacent floater — it is heartlessly unforgiving of mistakes and timidity.

One of the "wave-riders" of the rivers' management success is Moose Creek's Barry Miller, who assumed command of the Selway fleet as the River Ranger in 1981. He brought extensive whitewater experience and love of

wilderness to this physically-demanding position. During his tenure he has continually upgraded the program and equipment. His summer guest lists incorporate receptionists and regional foresters, and he expects the same from everyone: enjoy, experience and learn the river; help with camp chores; and assist with patrol duties, whether it be fire ring rehabilitation or permit-checking.

Barry has provided exceptional coordination between the two administering districts (West Fork of the Bitterroot NF and Moose Creek of the Nez Perce NF), and has been lauded by co-workers, supervisors and river users. He promoted an FY90 "close-out" meeting to discuss river problems and plans. As a result, the river map will be updated and reprinted, law enforcement measures strengthened, and safety and equipment reviewed. And while Barry may travel afar during other months in search of whitewater challenges, it is reasonable to assume that he will be lured back by his first love — the beautiful Selway River.



Selway River Ranger, Barry Miller.

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Take Pride In Idaho Winners

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests and several of their employees were honored in September for work in historic preservation, public lands stewardship activities, natural resource conservation, and other related cultural endeavors. Governor Cecil Andrus presented the awards for the Idaho Centennial Commission at the third annual Take Pride In Idaho awards ceremony in Boise. "Take Pride in Idaho" recognizes the work of individuals and organizations involved in outstanding activities that benefit all Idahoans. It is sponsored in conjunction with the national Take Pride in America program. The winners honored at this ceremony were nominated for projects that were completed during 1989. Those nominated for projects done in 1990 will be honored next year.

Forest Service recipients, honored among a total of 51 nominees, were:

Friends of Burnt Knob, Rcd River Ranger Station, Nez Perce National Forest, for restoration of a historic lookout near the

Nez Perce Trail Road;

Pierce Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, for opening and reconstruction of a scenic vista trail in the Lolo Trail System, which was a prehistoric route used by Nez Perce and Salish Indian Tribes;

Nez Perce National Forest, for locating and permanently marking the Southern Nez Perce Trail;

The Nez Perce National Forest "Think Tank," for a recycling program that encouraged children to recycle, and raised community awareness about recycling, solid waste management, natural resources, and landfills.

Powell Ranger Station, Clearwater National Forest, for preparing and executing a Wilderness Skills Project designed to bring the public and Forest Service employees together in a working, learning environment.

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Historic Cabin Restored

by Jaime Schmidt, Forester, Avery Ranger District

It's done! Three years and about 635 volunteer hours of digging, sawing, hammering, sweating and laughing later, the historic Twin Creek Cabin on Avery Ranger District has been restored and will soon be open for forest visitors to use and enjoy.

The small log cabin, located about twelve air miles south of Avery, was built in 1927 to serve as an office and warehouse for the ranger station which had been moved from Roundtop Mountain the year before. Twin Creek Ranger Station was only in operation three years, however, before the mosquitos won and headquarters were moved back to Roundtop. In the years that followed, Twin Creek continued to serve as a backcountry work center and stop-over place for travelers in the area. The Forest Service also kept stock at a rustic barn that had been built nearby. By 1950, however, snow toppled the only other remaining building, leaving the cabin and the barn as the only visible remnants of the Twin Creek Ranger Station. Over the next several years, weather continued its work and by 1979 the cabin was sagging pretty badly with rotten sill logs, a buckled floor and leaking roof.

Then in 1988, Avery District sponsored the first Twin Creek Volunteer Weekend and about ten volunteers set to work with shovels, jacks and a lot of enthusiasm to raise the building, remove rotten sill logs and begin replacing the roof. Varco Logging of Superior, Montana, cut and skidded the replacement



Nancy Mehaffie, forester on Avery District, prepares windows for a new coat of paint.

logs to the site and B & G Shakes of Calder, Idaho, contributed material for the new roof at cost. The next year new sill logs were fitted and placed, the old floor was ripped out and the new roof was finished. And finally, this year, with the installation of a new floor, porch, stove, door and repaired window panes, the cabin was finished. Local logger Tom McQuade of Marble Creek, Idaho, supplied all the lumber for the floor, porch and door at cost.

Over the past three years a total of about 40 volunteers have worked on the project—mostly Avery District and IPNF employees and their families. Their contribution in labor is estimated at about \$5,000, while private contributions in materials have totaled over \$2,000. The Forest Service has contributed approximately \$5,000 in materials, planning and coordination.

The 1990 Volunteer Weekend culminated with the annual Twin Creek barbecue. After the last of the burgers were eaten and as the sun began sinking, the "Twin Creek Cabin" sign was proudly hung above the door, the last of the tools put away, the sawdust swept from the porch and group photos hastily snapped in the fading light. Then everyone settled down in tired happiness, leaning back against a log or lying in the grass, to admire the cabin and listen to stories about the old days when the Twin Creek Cabin was in its heyday. It was just one of several backcountry cabins that provided shelter, warmth and a refueling place for "backcountry rangers" and others travelling the rugged miles of mountain trails in the St. Joe and Clearwater area. Once again, the Twin Creek Cabin stands open, welcoming and cared for—ready to provide a resting spot or just a neat place to visit for today's backcountry users.

Custer National Forest

Home on the Range -- Custer Style

by Curt Bates, Forest Supervisor

Sometimes it is possible for Forest Service employees to combine business with pleasure, and that is what happened on the recent Regional Range Ride hosted by the Custer National Forest. The Ride, an annual event in Region One, was held in the Pryor Mountain portion of the Beartooth Ranger District. Linda Ward-Williams, Beartooth District Ranger, served as hostess; the ride was coordinated by Jim Fishburn, Custer Range Program Manager.

Most of the eastside Forests were represented, as well as the Regional Office and Washington Office. The local perspective was enhanced by Gwin McKittrick, a retired range technician who spent several years in the Pryor Mountains and, at 72 years of age, did more riding during this session than anyone else.

The theme of this year's ride dealt with the image of public land grazing. The highlight was a campfire session which included the congressional staff from the offices of Max Baucus and Ron Marlenee; Bill McElvain, BLM Area Manager; Roger Fliger, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Manager; George and Paul Loyning, local grazing permittees; and Clint Peck, editor of the Montana



Riders relax and talk around a campfire. Photo by Sherry Milburn.

Farmer-Stockman Magazine. The campfire session turned out to be a very frank, open discussion about all aspects of public land grazing, the gist of which was recently featured in the Montana Farmer-Stockman Magazine.

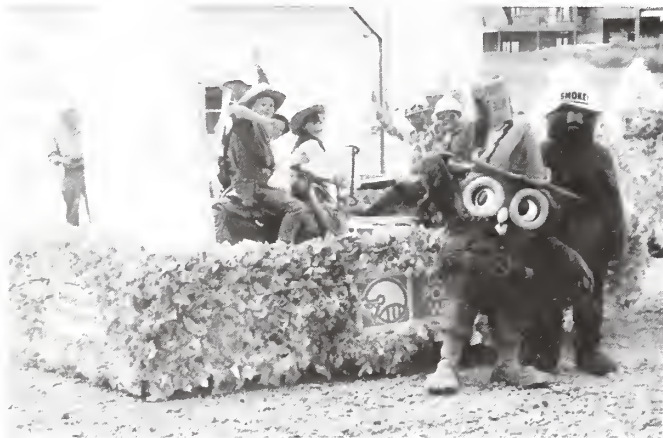
During three days of riding the group covered much of the Pryor Mountains, discussing range conditions, viewing wilderness study areas, and riding amongst wild horses on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. Excellent cowboy grub was dished up daily by a trio of range conservationists from the Ashland Ranger District -- Bob Gilman, Don Despain, and Ron Hecker. They were affectionately known as "Buckaroo Bob and the Traveling Kitchen Crew." True to the traditions they represent, this crew was very gracious in their use of jalapeno peppers.

Since the Lewis & Clark National Forest was not present during this unforgettable ride, it was agreed that they would host this annual event in 1991.

Deerlodge National Forest

Celebrating Whitehall's 100th

by Laurie Russell, Resource Clerk



The Centennial Celebration of Whitehall, Montana, took place in August of this year. Jefferson Ranger District employees and their children had great fun participating by designing, building and decorating this float, entitled "Their Future is in Our Hands." Riding on the float were the children - our future forest users, dressed as ranchers, lumberjacks, fisherpersons, and miners. Dressed as ranchers were Robin Russell and Hans Tolf; Clint Wheeler was a lumberjack, James Russell a miner, and Anna Tolf and Leif Kamrud were fisherpersons.

Lewis & Clark National Forest

Boy Scouts Adopt a Trail

Boy Scouts and Scoutmasters of Troop 153 began a multi-year task in August to maintain the trail to Memorial Falls on the Kings Hill Ranger District in the Little Belt Mountains. The Scouts volunteered to maintain the one-half mile Forest Service Trail No. 738 through the Federal "Adopt-A-Trail" program.



Shown on a reconstructed segment of trail are (from left) Stan Walker, Dustin Deiter, LaVon Walker, Wayne Duke and Cal Blatter, all from Great Falls.

Beaverhead National Forest

Getting Water to the Bighorns

A helitak crew loads part of a rain-catching trough into a sling net to be transported to the Tendoy Mountains. With funding from the Rocky Mountain Wild Sheep Foundation, Beaverhead National Forest biologist Ron Wiseman installed the trough on a ridge for bighorn sheep.



Helitak crew members from left: Teresa Asleson, Idaho Panhandle NFs; Brian Cuddleback, Houston Helicopters pilot; Chris Dargon, Dept. of State Lands; Jim Dietz, Idaho Panhandle NFs; and Bob Gardiner, Lewis & Clark NF.
Photo by Jack DeGolia.

In Memoriam

M.D. "Hal" Marshall, engineer for the Bitterroot NF for 10 years died October 8 in Hamilton at the age of 79.

Bev McClellan, who, with her husband, was a Kootenai NF campground host for the past 3 years, died August 21 of a heart attack. Bev was well-known for her special hospitality to Forest visitors.

Lawrence Alkire, who retired in 1979 after 25 years of service with the Bitterroot NF, died September 16 in Hamilton at 73.

Personnel Actions

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

ARNHOLTZ, GINGER, res asst, SO, cash award
BILLETER, JOHN, frstr tech, Pierce RD, cash award
BILLETER, TERESA, res clk, Lochsa RD, career promotion
CAVAGNARO, NICK, hydro tech, SO, group award
EBY, SONIA, hydro tech, SO, group award
GOBER, DOUG, supvy civ eng, SO, comp promotion
GRIMM, VICKI, fin asst, Pierce RD, cash award
HARROUN, TONY, frstr aid, Pierce RD, cash award
HAZELBAKER, KRISTINE, frstr, Nez Perce NF, prom to frstr, Lochsa RD
JOERSZ, MONTE, supvy civ eng tech, SO, temp promotion
KEATING, KEN, frstr tech, Pierce RD, cash award
LEWIS, TIM, frstr tech, Pierce RD, cash award
McCORD, BRENDA, rity spec, SO, career promotion
MATTSO, KOLLEEN, frstr tech, SO, cash award
MILLER, MIKE, frstr tech, Pierce RD, cash award
MUNSON, COLLEEN, frstr tech, Pierce RD, cash award
O'NEILL, JOHN, hydro tech, SO, group award
STADLER, DON, frstr, Powell RD, cash award
SUAZO, AGNES, student trainee, Pierce RD, career promotion
TALBERT, DENNIS, wildl bio, Lochsa RD, lateral to Nez Perce NF
TRAMMEL, JOHN, eng equip oper, Pierce RD, cash award

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

BAKER, GERARD, asst district ranger, Dept of Interior to McKenzie RD, prom

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

KOSY, JIM, budget and accounting officer, SO, to Umatilla NF, reassign

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

JOHNSON, COLLEEN, career cond appt, payroll clk, Cd'A Nursery
LUCE, JERRY, retired, Wallace RD
MUELLER, CHARLENE, reassignment, res clk, SO
NITCY, DARRELL, SCSEP, Avery RD
PLUE, MARSHALL, conv to career cond appt, frstry tech, St. Maries RD
SEARS, DONALD, retired, Cd'A Nursery
TITUS, JULIE, finc asst, St. Maries RD, prom, SSS, Feman RD
WEBBER, JON, resigned, Feman RD
WHITE, JEANNE, promotion, frstr, St. Maries RD

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

CHAPMAN, ZAIL, dispatcher, SO, retired
MCBRATNEY, BRAD, mge conserv, Rocky Mtn RD, temp promotion
MAY, DOROTHY, clk typ, SO, promotion
MORRIS, SANDRA, clk typ, Rocky Mtn RD, prom to info rptnst, Rocky Mtn RD
OSEN, THOMAS, range tech, Judith RD, prom to range cons, Judith RD
PHILLIPS, GARY R, range cons, Custer NF, prom to range cons, Judith RD
THURSTON, GAIL, comp clk, SO, reassignment, dispatcher, SO
ZADRA, MARIANNE, comp clk, SO, transfer, Malmstrom AFB

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

BERNS-MELHUS, KIM, frstr, SO, reassign, Arapaho-Roosevelt NF
DECAPRILES, JACKIE, Plains/TFalls RD, bus mgmt splct, promotion
HACKMAN, HARDEE, cc appt, civil eng tech, Missoula RD
IPPISCH, CAROL, Superior RD, res asst, promotion
LIPSCOMB, BRIAN, Plains/TFalls Engrg Zone, supvy civil engr, promotion

PARTYKA, CHRIS, cc appt, civil eng tech, Plains/TFalls Engrg Zone
SAVIK, VICKI, Plains/TFalls RD, res asst, promotion

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

ALBERTSON, LARRY, supv frstr aid, Red River RD, promotion
ANDERSON, BRUCE, supv rge conserv, Salmon River RD, promotion
ARTLEY, RICHARD, frstr, SO, cash award
BABLER, BARBARA, clk typ, Red River RD, cash award
BABLER, STEVEN, wildl biol, Red River RD, cash award
BATEMAN, STEPHEN, frstr, Selway RD, promotion
BONN, JOSEPH, civ eng, SO, cash award
CASH, JEAN, purch agnt, SO, reassignment from Six Rivers NF
CLARKIN, KIM, hydrol, Red River RD, cash award
DEFORD, LORI, dist clk asst, Moose Creek RD, promotion
DENHAM, JOSEPH, frstr tech, Elk City RD, cash award
ELLIOTT, CYNTHIA, frstr tech, SO, reassignment from Clearwater NF
ESSLINGER, DON, animal packer, Moose Creek RD, cash award
GERHARDT, NIKOLAUS, hydrol, SO, cash award
GRADWELL, JANET, resource clk, Selway RD, promotion
GREEN, DAVID, computer prog analyst, SO, promotion
HOAG, BARTON, lead frstr tech, Red River RD, cash award
HOLSTEIN, COLLIN, supv frstr tech, Salmon River Rd, promotion
KELLY, SUSAN, supv civ eng, SO, transfer from Dept of Int, Billings
LUNDE, LARRY, supv frstr, Red River RD, promotion, cash award
MANTHA, KRISTI, stu trainee mins, SO, promotion
MCDONALD, TIMOTHY, frstr tech, Clearwater RD, conv to career cond
MOYNAN, KATHLEEN, fisheries biol, Red River RD, cash award
NEUGARD, KRISTIN, civ eng, SO, reassign from Gifford Pinchot NF
NEWMAN, RUSSELL, lead frstr tech, Elk City RD, cash award
NORWOOD, KEVIN, frstr tech, Selway RD, promotion
NUKOLL, SANDRA, resour tech, SO, promotion
O'NEILL, JULIA, pers offcr, SO, promotion
PARADISO, JAMES, frstr, Clearwater RD, promotion
PARSELL, NEAL, tech pub editor biol sci, SO, cash award
PETERSON, MARK, supv frstr, Clearwater RD, cash award
PHILLIPS, SUSAN, frstr tech, Red River RD, cash awards
RUSHO, NANCY, geol, Red River RD, cash award
SIMLER, DOUGLAS, lead frstr tech, Red River RD, cash award
SIMMONDS, LAURIE, frstr tech, Red River RD, cash award
SONDENAA, ANGELA, wildl biol, Salmon River RD, conv to car cond
STEED, ROGERS, supv frstr, Red River RD, cash award
VOLLMER, KRISTINE, biol tech, Red River RD, cash award
WASSMUTH, DEBRA, resource clk, SO, cash award
WINKLER, BECKY, computer asst, Clearwater RD, cash award
WULFF, DOUGLAS, frstr, Red River RD, cash award

REGIONAL OFFICE

ARTHUR, JAMES, supv classif & wage spec, PM, cash award
GIESE, WENDY, clk typ, PP&B, promotion
HEGWOOD, DANIELLE, clk typ, W&F, cash award
PRITCHARD, JOHN, frstr, A&FM, cash award
SMITH, SHANNON, civ eng, E, career cond appt
SWANSON, CINDY, wildl biol, W&F, cash award
WILLIAMS, DENA, equal employmt mgr, RF, cash award
WORTH, CHRISTOPHER, student trainee-frstr, PP&B, promotion

Finding Sensitive Plants

by Steve Shelly, Botanist, Regional Office

Within one week after attending a sensitive plant training session on the Nez Perce National Forest, a Red River Ranger District employee discovered a previously undocumented location for candystick (*Allotropa virgata*), a plant species included on the Region One sensitive plant list. Leigh Ann Pinkham had learned how to identify the plant at the session, and then found it during her work on the District. The population turned out to be the largest one ever documented to date in Idaho or Montana. Other additional sites for candystick were later found on the District as the field season progressed.

Similarly, employees of the Lincoln Ranger District, on the Helena National Forest, have found several new locations for a very rare member of the mustard family, the divide bladderpod (*Lesquerella klausii*), a species which was discussed during a session on that Forest.

These sensitive plant training sessions, presented in May and June, were the first ever in the Region. Seven sessions were conducted on five National Forests. In Montana, sessions were presented on the Flathead, Helena, and Kootenai NFs. These were organized and presented by RO botanists Steve Shelly and Angela Evenden, with assistance from John Pierce and Steve Chadde. In Idaho, sessions were held on the Nez Perce and Idaho Panhandle NFs conducted in cooperation with Chris Lorain, Idaho Natural Heritage Program botanist, and Angela Evenden.

The two-day sessions included presentations and a field trip to visit populations of several sensitive plants. Methods of surveying and

documenting occurrences of these species were discussed. All the sessions were well attended (the Idaho Panhandle NFs had to offer three separate sessions!), and enthusiasm for the topic was very high.

Information on the distribution and ecology of many of the sensitive plant species in our Region is limited. This training expands our knowledge of these important components of the biological diversity of the Northern Region. As the sensitive plant species program expands, more training sessions will be conducted in the future.



Above: Steve Chadde (left), and Steve Shelly, instructors for the Flathead NF training session, examine a plant.

Left: Steve Wirt, stand exam specialist, Tally Lake RD (front), Bruce Hird, wildlife biologist, Glacier View RD (left), and Steve Shelly find pale sedge, a plant on the Regions's sensitive plant list.

Photos by Angela Evenden.

The Northern Region News

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